

City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: January 24, 2012

FROM: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ITEM NO: 7

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REPORT

ISSUE:

The issue before the City Council is acceptance of a report of the activities of the Human Relations Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive this report.

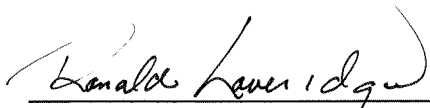
BACKGROUND:

Chair Georgia Warnke will present the Human Relations Commission report to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this report.

Submitted by:



RONALD O. LOVERIDGE
Mayor

Approved as to form:
Gregory P. Priamos, City Attorney

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
2010-2011 Report to Riverside City Council
January 24, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

It gives me great pleasure to report on the 2010-2011 activities of the Human Relations Commission (HRC). But first, on behalf of my fellow commissioners, please allow me to thank you for the support you have given the HRC in all its endeavors during the past year.

I would also like to thank Vice Chair Lorraine Saint, and Parliamentarian Omar Zaki, and my fellow commissioners Art Alcaraz, Pamela Brown, David Chandler, Gilberto Esquivel, Kim Foreman, Jeanne Guzman John Krick, Diane Lang, Maria Scott, Beth Skinner, George Perez and Gladys Walker for the support they have given me.

The Human Relations Commission was established in 1966 through the passage of Ordinance No. 3389 and with the goal of, *"Advocating for equal opportunity, justice, and access in the City of Riverside to services and opportunities. Fostering mutual understanding and respect between people; encouraging education and outreach; and developing and promoting programs to eliminate prejudice and discrimination."*

I am delighted to report on our progress in achieving this mission over the past year.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Riverside International Film Festival: HRC has been a traditional sponsor of the Riverside International Film Festival (RIFF), and RIFF in turn has reciprocated by dedicating an HRC day of films on themes such as diversity, equality and social justice which are important to the Commission's goals.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk-A-Thon: Since 2010, HRC has been a sponsor of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk-A-Thon. The event is designed to bring attention to the civil rights movement and its legacy, and generate funds for a Civil Rights Institute that is being planned by the organizing group, Riverside African American Historical Society (RAAHS). Several commissioners, including myself, participated in the three kilometer walk on January 18, 2010, January 17, 2011, and again on January 16, 2012. HRC Commissioner David Chandler represents the HRC on the RAAHS Board and is a member of the planning group for the Walk-a-Thon.

UCR Diversity Certificate Program: Over the past two years, the HRC has continued to work with University of California on developing a Diversity Leadership Institute (DLI). The DLI is an innovative, collaborative, community-based training program on all aspects of diversity leadership.

Mayor's State of the City Address: HRC was a Silver Sponsor of this event in 2011.

Participation in Community Forums: HRC commissioners/staff regularly attend the twice-monthly meetings of community organizations such as The Latino Network and

The Group. This allows the HRC to keep attuned to issues facing the community organizations networked into these groups.

Riverside Heroes Project: In 2009, Mayor Loveridge asked the HRC to develop a Riverside Heroes project similar to the CNN Network's Heroes project. The idea was to use HRC as a platform to identify and recognize everyday heroes who have contributed significantly to the Riverside community at a year-end reception and award ceremony. Since then, the HRC has hosted two Riverside Heroes receptions. In 2010, the HRC celebrated 8 Riverside Heroes. In 2011, 11 Heroes, ranging in age from 11 years to 96 years, were honored. In addition, the 2011 HRC Heroes Award reception memorialized three additional Grier Icons—Jack B. Clarke, Sr., Augustine "Teen" Flores, and Eliza Tibbets—on the Grier Pavilion. The 2011 Grier Icons join 13 Icons, among them legendary figures like Riverside founder John North and Keeper of the Inn Frank Miller, who were so honored at the opening of the Grier Pavilion in 2008. LA Times columnist Sandy Banks gave the keynote speech at the event and was attended by some 135 people, including the families and descendants of the Icons.

Riverside Day of Inclusion: Per HRC's recommendation, City Council declared December 17 as Riverside's Day of Inclusion. This day honors the contributions of all immigrants to California and Riverside. In conjunction with this declaration, Council also reaffirmed its commitment to diversity and the "Building a More Inclusive Riverside Community" statement. HRC and the Multicultural Council of Riverside hosted a special showing of the film "Speaking in Tongues" to commemorate the 2011 Day of Inclusion.

Family Village Festival: HRC is a sponsor of the Family Village Festival, also dedicated to the richness of Riverside's diversity.

LOOKING FORWARD

In carrying out the goals and the accomplishments of our mission and the Inclusive Community Statement, the HRC has committed \$2,500 to the developing Cesar Chavez monument on Main Street in Downtown Riverside and is a sponsor of the project. The monument is expected to be unveiled in fall of 2012.

HRC has begun its planning for the Heroes 2012 event, tentatively scheduled for the month of December in conjunction with the 2012 Day of Inclusion and the annual reaffirmation of the Inclusive Community statement. As an essential event for Riverside, HRC will continue to develop this into a signature event of the Commission.

In the coming year the HRC will continue to identify areas of community concern, develop responses to meet those concerns, and work with other public, private and community, entities to ensure fair and just treatment for all in Riverside.

Thank you again for your patience, and all the support you have given us.

Regards,

Georgia Warnke
Chair